

St. Francis Xavier Parish

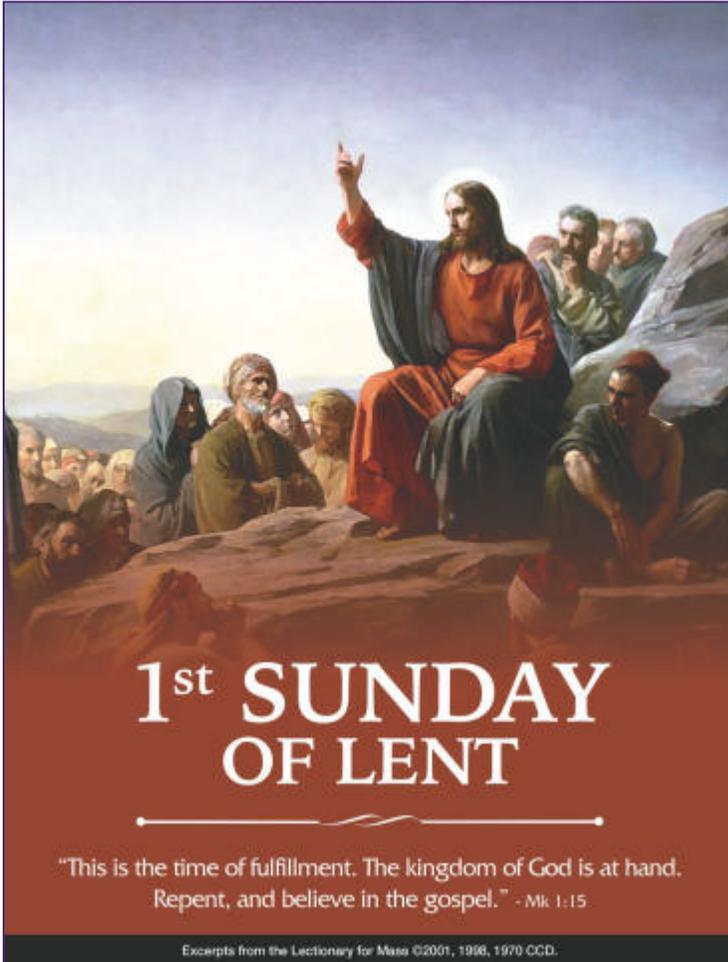
2618 Seneca Street, Saint Joseph, MO 64507

Directed by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood Since 1890

The mission of St. Francis Xavier Parish is to encounter Jesus Christ and bring Him to all through Vibrant Liturgy, Lifelong Christian Formation and Social Outreach.



SATURDAY—SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20— 21, 2021



PARISH STAFF

Fr. Joe Miller, C.P.P.S., Pastor

Fr. Lac Pham, C.P.P.S., Associate Pastor

Fr. Bill Walter, C.P.P.S.

Parish Administrator John Lutz
 Parish Center Manager Ruth White
 Secretaries Ruth White/Pam Evans
 Stewardship/Development Director John Lutz
 Music Director Paul Hart
 R.C.I.A. Coordinator June Stancliff
 S.F.X. School Principal Darin Pollard
 School of Religion Coordinator Nyla Bitunjac
 Bulletin Editor Pam Evans

Pastoral Council:

Larry Runyan: President, Brian Ziesel: Vice President,
 Beth Sterns: Secretary, Stephanie Wegenka,
 Joe Marmaud, Roberta Seevers, Adam Miljavac,
 Pat Dillon, Sherrel Coats.

Diocesan Victim's Advocate. Kathleen Chastain
 816-392-0011 or victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org
 Ombudsman Joseph Crayon (816) 812-2500

MASSES

SATURDAY: (SUNDAY VIGIL MASS) 4:00pm
SUNDAY: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am, 7:00pm
 (3rd Sunday each month 7:00pm Mass is in Vietnamese)
 9:30am Mass is streamed online at: SFX1891
WEEKDAYS: 7:00am and 8:15am
SATURDAY: 8:00am

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAYS: 11:00am and 3:00pm (or by appointment)

PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION:

PARISH OFFICE: 816-232-8449, (Fax) 816-364-5174
PARISH OFFICE HOURS:
 8:00am—4:00pm, Monday—Friday. Closed on holidays.
SCHOOL: 816-232-4911
HOUSE OF BREAD: 816-671-9473
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: 816-689-4053
BULLETIN: bulletin@sfxstjoe.com
WEBSITE: www.sfxstjoe.com
EMAIL: parishoffice@sfxstjoe.com
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AT: facebook.com/sfxstjoe



BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

TUESDAY, MARCH 9th

7:00pm in the Parish Center, East side

This is for parents who want a child baptized. Come even if you are pregnant (you won't need a babysitter.) If you have other children who have already been baptized, you are still asked to come, so that you may continue to grow in your faith, and help others to grow in their faith.

If you have questions, please call the Parish Office at 232-8449.

Please come wearing a mask.

Saint Francis Xavier Parish has been under the spiritual leadership of the Society of the Precious Blood since its beginning in 1890. As a Catholic community, we stand ready to serve all those who are in need. We value in a special way the handing on of faith and tradition through our Parish School, Religious Education and Christian Formation. We welcome everyone. New members are encouraged to call and register at the Rectory.

BAPTISM -

Parental preparation classes offered throughout the year.

MATRIMONY -

Preparation for engaged couples. Nine months notification before marriage date.

R.C.I.A.-

Meets weekly from September through Pentecost. Inquiries are welcome year-round.

COUNSELING -

Available to individuals and families. Make appointments through the Parish Office.

ANointING OF THE SICK -

Due to the coronavirus pandemic a priest will respond on a case by case basis.

HOSPITAL VISITS -

If you have a family member or friend in the hospital who would like to be visited by a parish priest, please call the Rectory. Due to privacy laws, the hospital cannot tell the priests who is in the hospital.



This Week's Reflection - February 21, 2021

"See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you ..." (Genesis 9: 9)

Dear St. Francis Xavier Parish Family,

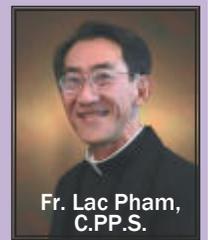
A few days ago on Ash Wednesday we began our Lenten journey with the Prophet Joel calling his community to assemble. Having witnessed the devastation of the land by the locust invasion, which signals the coming of the Day of the Lord for final judgement, the Prophet called for a gathering of all members of the whole community (nation) to pray to God for forgiveness and deliverance. By their acts of repentance: *"Then the Lord was stirred to concern for his land and took pity on his people."* (Joel 2:18)

Current events show that we are being devastated by an on-going pandemic with no certain end. The climate/weather is turning toward harsh conditions and becoming more disruptive to our normal life activities. Events of social unrest, political corruptions, crimes, prejudicial and discriminative attitude along with dictatorial behaviors are on the rise ... It is time to turn to the Lord begging for forgiveness of sins, social and personal, against God and one another. Quoting from the Isaiah 49: 8-9 Saint Paul urged the Corinthians then, and us now: *"Behold, now is the acceptable time, behold, now is the day of salvation."* (2 Corinthians 6: 2b)

And so we assemble to embark on a communal and personal journey returning to the Lord (=repentance), confidently and patiently awaiting the Lord's deliverance. We follow those who had gone before us in faith exercising the tried and true practices of: PRAY (acts of worship, when and where possible), FAST (balancing out needs and wants in self-control) and ALMSGIVING (sharing of what we are using for ourselves – food, goods, money, time, special talents, care and concerns, etc.)

Remembering that God has established covenants with us from way back and Jesus is making the everlasting covenant in his own body and blood for us, we ask for his company as we proceed with our 40 days of LENT. May the ashes sprinkled on our heads keep echoing through our minds and hearts that *"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."* (Mark 1: 15)

Fr. Lac



If someone is in need of ANNOINTING OF THE SICK (in the hospital or at home), call the Parish Office. Due to the coronavirus pandemic a priest will respond on a case by case basis.

PARISH REGISTRATION

If you are new to our Parish, we invite you to register:

- Introduce yourself to Fr. Joe, Fr. Lac or Fr. Bill before or after Mass or
- Come to the Parish Office (Monday—Friday 8:00am—4:00pm), or
- Go to our Parish Website at: www.sfxstjoe.com, click on the "About Us" Tab, then click on "Parish Registration."



QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

Jesus said, "I am the way the _____ and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me: (John 14:6).

- a) truth
- b) leader
- c) love
- d) peace

** Find the answer in this week's bulletin.

VOCATION PRAYER

“Call on me,” says your God. “Remember the covenant I made with you? I will teach you, guide you, save you.” Yes, Lord, in the mystery of the Trinity, you became flesh in Jesus. That means you our God through Jesus, died for us. What love you have for each of us! Help us to let our hearts rest in you.

Lord, we implore you to send us young Precious Blood priests whose interior lives of trusting submission to you is evidenced by their ability to draw your children and those in need into your merciful care.

VOCATION CRUCIFIX

Sunday, February 21, 2021 at 11:30am Mass
Jennifer Juhl

Sunday, February 28, 2021 at 7:30am Mass
Chuck and Patty Hayes



REST IN PEACE



Albert Raymond (Ray) Stout
January 12, 1922 — February 6, 2021

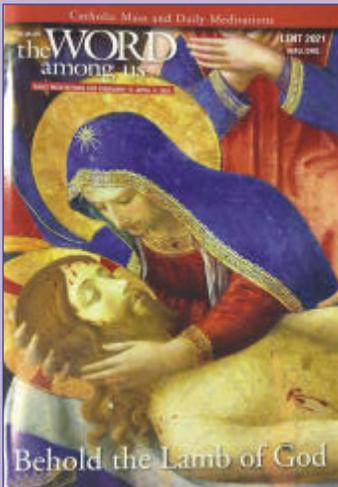
REST IN PEACE



Mary Ellen Lippard
April 11, 1939 — February 13, 2021
(Mother of Cliff (Elizabeth) Lippard, parishioners)

Available near the church doors...

THE WORD AMONG US —Catholic Mass and Daily Meditations for Lent



In his letter to the Philippians, St. Paul presents an inspiring philosophy of life. He urges us to fill ourselves with things that are holy, true and pure. He urges us to hold onto the ways of God and let go of everything that’s opposed to Him. (\$2 each)

2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

were mailed to you on February 2nd. Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic they will not be available to pick-up in Gaspar Hall this year.

**MASS SERVICES AND INTENTIONS
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22 — FEBRUARY 28, 2021**

MONDAY, February 22

The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle

7:00am Harry Clisbee
8:15am Agnes Hon

TUESDAY, February 23

Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

7:00am Louise Hershewe
8:15am Father Longino

WEDNESDAY, February 24

For Ancestors

7:00am Vincent Pham Van Gia
8:15am God’s Blessings on Both Paternal and Maternal Clans
5:30pm

THURSDAY, February 25

Berenice Clisbee

7:00am Maria (9th Anniversary of Death)
8:15am

FRIDAY, February 26

Uketui and Omile Families
Robert Grable

7:00am
8:15am

SATURDAY, February 27

All Souls

8:00am Rita Burns
4:00pm

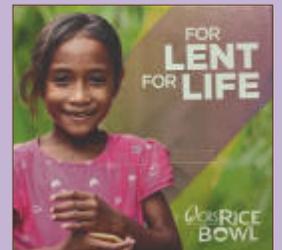
SUNDAY, February 28

Second Sunday of Lent

7:30am Janice Supple
9:30am 50th Anniversary of John & Nyla Bitunjac
11:30am For the Parish
7:00pm (Grandma) Cynthia Kaminaga

CRS RICE BOWL

What you give up for Lent changes lives. Pick-up a CRS Rice Bowl in Gaspar Hall, or donate online at: crsricebowl.org/give
(Bring your Rice Bowl to church at the end of Lent.)



“Faith is to believe what you do not see. The reward of faith is to see what you believe.”

St. Augustine of Hippo



RCIA PROCESS

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

This Sunday, February 21st we will meet for 11:30am Mass at Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph with Bishop Johnston, followed by the Rite of Election.

On Wednesday, February 24th we will meet in the Parish Center, east side at 6:30pm. We will be talking about The Creed.

If you have questions, please call the Parish Office at 232-8449.

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Sunday, February 21

RCIA will meet for 11:30am Mass at Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph with Bishop Johnston, followed by the Rite of Election.
5:30pm Vespers in Church

Monday, February 22

6:00pm Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Dinner in Parish Center, west side

Tuesday, February 23

8:30am—10:30am House of Bread Open
9:00am Prayer Group meets in Parish Center, Conf. Rm

Wednesday, February 24

6:30pm RCIA meets in the Parish Center, east side

Thursday, February 25

8:30am—10:30am House of Bread Open

Friday, February 26

5:30pm Stations of the Cross in Church

Saturday, February 27

6:30am Men of Faith meet in Parish Center, west side
8:30am—10:30am House of Bread Open

Sunday, February 28

5:30pm Vespers in Church

MEN OF FAITH

will meet **Saturday, February 27th** in the Parish Center, west side, beginning with breakfast at 6:30am.

The Pope has declared 2021 the “Year of Saint Joseph” and we will have an overview by Fr. Calloway who is leading the effort to honor our city’s patron saint in the U.S. Over the next few meetings we will get into the nitty gritty of what this special year can mean for us, both personally and in our role as citizens of our city dedicated to Saint Joseph!!

— — — — —
a) truth. St. Thomas Aquinas explained that all truth comes from the Word of God, and therefore any truth found in this world finds its source in God.

COLLECTION FOR THE WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 13—14



Weekend Mass Envelopes:	\$4,458.00
Weekend Mass Plate:	318.00
Weekend Kids’ Collection:	—
Utility Collection:	—
Solemnity of Mary Collection:	—
TOTAL WEEKEND COLLECTION:	\$4,776.00

Total Parish Income from all sources for the week of February 7th: \$17,831.36
(Contributions, Operational & Education (tuition) Income)

SCRIP SALES:

January 31 — February 14: \$7,945.00
(Amount SFX earned: \$237.16)



If you are unable to return for weekend Mass, we ask you to please mail in your contribution, or go to the website: sfxstjoe.weshareonline.org and click **Make A Donation**. Choose One Time Donation or Recurring Donation, pick an amount and enter your info. You can also scan the bar code to make your contribution.



HELP FOR THOSE OVER 65 NEEDING TO REGISTER FOR THE COVID VACCINE

Currently, COVID-19 vaccines are available for everyone in our community 65 years and older. If you do not have a computer or internet capabilities and need assistance in getting yourself registered for the vaccine, member knights are available to help you with your registration. Once registered, you will be notified by email or phone text when it is time for your appointment.

Additionally, if you do not have any means of transportation to your appointment, we will try to assist you in making it to your scheduled appointment time.

Please contact one of the following member knights for assistance:

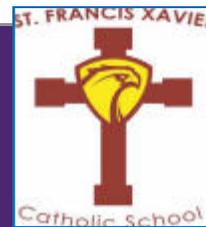
- John Bitunjac 752-8767
- Ray Heitman 262-2112
- Mike Violett 390-2959



SCRIP CARDS are not being sold after weekend Masses, though you can purchase them in the Parish Office, Monday thru Friday from 8:00am—4:00pm.

St. Francis Xavier School—*The Difference is Inside!*

- **Guided by Christ**, we strive to become the best we can be.
- **Formed with Family**, we carry on the traditions and legacy of St. Francis Xavier Parish.
- **Engaged through Innovation** our students bring about a better future.
- **Children are Empowered** to achieve beyond expectations.
- **Called to Lead**, our students serve our community, nation and world.



We LOVE our school! We enjoyed a happy Valentine's Day thanks to parish and HASA support! This year our teachers handled the parties and HASA provided some individually packed treats. (More on page 6.)

Registration for next school year is open! If you would like your child to become part of our lovely school, please contact the school office. Call 232-4911 or email: Dpollard@sfxstjoe.com



CONFIRMATION CLASS

(for youth entering 9th through 12th grade.)

We will meet on Sunday, February 21st in the Parish Center, east side from 3:30pm—5:30pm.

(Keep up with posts on the 2021 Confirmation Facebook page.)

If you have questions, contact Janey Johnston at 816-261-9585 or email: youthminister@sfxstjoe.com

Do not have your concert first, and then tune your instrument afterward. Begin the day with the Word of God and prayer, and get first of all into harmony with Him.

James Hudson Taylor

YOUTH MINISTRY – Look for start-up information in a future bulletin.

(Continued from School page 5)

Students put their creative boxes in the hallway to allow for both classes to drop their Valentines in.

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP – RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS****The Unlikely Suspects**

Have you ever taken a nature walk? Have you leisurely strolled through a forest or field, with no real destination in mind and your only objective being receptivity to and observation of all God's creation?

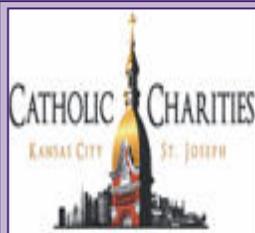
Sometimes, Scripture readings can feel like a nature walk. All of salvation history plays out against the backdrop of the natural world, with all elements of God's creation — plants and animals and the dust of the earth itself — turning in a supporting performance. How about Jesus in the hot and dusty desert, tempted, living "among the wild beasts?" Noah departed from his ark with the animals he rescued, observing God's sign in the very clouds of the sky. Even God Himself, offering us salvation from original sin through the waters of baptism.

How often do we remember that God speaks to us through all of His creation, even in the unlikeliest suspects?

Let's go back to the nature walk. It sounds like a lovely way to pass an afternoon, amongst wildflowers and butterflies, but don't forget the beating hot sun, mosquitos, and threat of rain on the horizon. Remember, we're not in heaven yet. Here on earth, God may be present in His creation, but that doesn't mean it's always easy to endure.

Lent is, essentially, a time to listen for the voice of God in places we may not expect: the mild irritations you experience when you're craving the chocolate you gave up, or the dull pangs of hunger during the Ash Wednesday fast. It's a golden opportunity to see the divine hand in all of creation, even those unlikely suspects.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MT



GALA — Catholic Charities KCSJ invites you to ignite the night with us at the “Celebration of Hope Gala” on March 20, 2021. This year’s Gala will be an entirely virtual experience that you can join from the comfort of your own home. You can participate as a sponsor, a home party host, a donor to be with us in spirit, or by viewing the Celebration of Hope from any device for free! During this year’s event, we will share with you the work of Catholic Charities during the pandemic and exciting new endeavors that will position us to help more people in the future. You can find more information at www.CatholicCharitiesGala.org or by contacting Brooke Hilst, Major Gifts Manager, at bhilst@ccharities.com or 816-659-8274.

GOSPEL MEDITATION – ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

1st Sunday of Lent

St. Oscar Romero said, “Aspire not to have more, but to be more.” These powerful words provide the perfect framework for a conversion oriented Lenten experience. God is giving us this Lenten sign to stop being concerned about what you have and focus on who you are. This requires that we create a desert space and listen more attentively for God to reveal His presence. It is all so wonderfully simple on the one hand and so incredibly challenging on the other. The message is simple: Love God, neighbor, and self. Those simple words make great sense, but we struggle translating them into reality. Our attachments, compulsions, obsessions, addictions, routines, and busyness all anchor us to the “idol of the self,” keeping us mired in our compulsive need for self-aggrandizement. It’s not about us!

God vowed, long ago, to nurture, sustain and protect the relationship He has with His people. He called us into being, nurtures us in being, and sustains us in being. Without the Loving Divine Presence, all life would cease. Once we slow down a bit and clear away some of the clutter, we can see how the journey of our life is unfolding. We can see what brings us in and out of tune with God’s love and how we can better imitate God’s loving fidelity in our relationship with Him. In short, we will see our myopic short sightedness and figure out how we can better share the Divine Fire within with others. Lent isn’t just about giving stuff up for forty days and indulging again at Easter. We need to push things much farther and wrestle with the question of how we can be more. “Being more” means becoming more fully alive and in touch with the holiness of life and the divinity that lives in and empowers all beings and things. It is realizing that the “quality” of our presence is crucial to being an effective witness and herald of God’s unconditional love.

The illusion we have bought into causes us to believe that the wrong things and systems matter. We tirelessly fight to keep things the way they are, to return to the former ways of doing things or restore some nostalgic fantasy memory of “life in the good old days.” Lent isn’t about maintaining what we have or returning to something that is gone. It’s about becoming something new. It’s about being more focused, centered, convicted, and grounded so that we can be a person who truly loves and treasures being made in the image of God. The secret to Gospel living is not found in accumulating anything for ourselves, even merit points for heaven. Gospel living means learning how to live with less so that others can live with more. The thought of permanently giving something up makes us feel uncomfortable. Truth often does.

— LPI (Liturgical Publications Inc.)

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The Diocese of Kansas City—St. Joseph is committed to combatting sexual abuse in the Church

If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you *observe or suspect* sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected *sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult* to the Diocesan Ombudsman at 816.812.2500 if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact Victim Advocate, Kathleen Chastain, at 816.392.0011 or chastain@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: For The weekend of February 27th/28th — Submissions are due by Sunday, February 21st.

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